

السنة الأولى

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The Guardian
Take some responsibility
part

Friday January 5 1996

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Abu Dhabi D 0.50 | Hong Kong HK\$ 2.55 | Pakistan R 70 |
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| Andorra P 10 | Iceland IK 185 | Portugal E 200 |
| Australia A\$ 2.00 | India IN 15.00 | Romania R 100 |
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| Czech Republic KCZ 45 | Kuwait KD 0.50 | Spain P 225 |
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,441

Books: Julian Barnes, Barry Humphries, Henry Fielding and the Lottery

Roy Hattersley

Review



Daylight Robbery

Rab C Nesbitt interview

The monarchy is a farce



This section page 9

Court challenge to Saudi's 'political deportation'

Government admits decision to throw dissident is aimed at protecting relations with Riyadh

Soumas Milne and Ian Black

THE British deportation order against Saudi Arabia's most prominent dissident will be challenged in the courts, human rights and political leaders pledged yesterday after a government minister admitted the decision had been taken to protect relations with the kingdom.

Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said his organisation was prepared to seek judicial review of the order against Mohammed al-Mas'ari on the basis of remarks made yesterday by the Home Office minister, Ann Widdecombe, and was taking legal advice last night.

Mr Mas'ari, leader of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, who has been given until January 19 to appeal against his expulsion to the Caribbean island of Dominica, said he was prepared to fight the decision in the High Court if necessary.

The prospect of a legal challenge came as news of the deportation order was greeted with outrage by opposition politicians at home and consternation in the Middle East.

But the Government appeared ready to brazen out the controversy with its unqualified confirmation that the expulsion was primarily aimed at maintaining good relations with oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Mrs Widdecombe denied that there had been any "blackmailing pressure", but

said the Government had had representations from Riyadh and "people in British business" about Mr Mas'ari, who was "complicating our relations with the Saudis".

"If people come here and use our hospitality in order to attack extremely friendly governments with whom we have good diplomatic and very good trade relations, we have a very difficult balance to strike. On this occasion, we have concluded that British interests do require his removal."

Mr Moraes said Mrs Widdecombe's comments exposed the decision to legal challenge because she had acknowledged that the Government

had used discretion in the deportation decision. The move evidently had nothing to do with Mr Mas'ari not being "conducive to the public good", as required by the Immigration Act.

At a Westminster press conference, Mr Mas'ari said he felt "pity that such a great country has come to this level. It is like a very dignified businessman, working in the markets, his word is more valuable than his signature — and suddenly he gives up all that reputation, all that character, all that dignity, for two or three drug deals."

He added that the opposition would continue its fight for an elected Islamic government in Saudi Arabia wherever they were sent.

Doug Henderson, Labour home affairs spokesman, demanded assurances from ministers that the Government had stuck to the law and the UN Convention on asylum and that Mr Mas'ari had been treated as any other refugee.

Lord Avebury, the Liberal Democrat peer and chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said he was "appalled" by the Government's decision. It had "given way to blackmail".

Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East — where the Saudi dissident leader has been based for the past 18 months — said Mr Mas'ari's interests were being sacrificed to "suck up to the Saudis".

The deportation order was greeted with alarm by other Arab opposition movements based in London. "The great British democracy has surrendered to the most corrupt regime in the world," the editor of an independent London-based Arabic newspaper said.

Meanwhile, Tunisian diplomats demanded similar action against Rashid Ghanouchi, a fundamentalist leader granted asylum in Britain despite his alleged involvement in terrorist attacks at home.

It also emerged that Mr Mas'ari had been seeking permission to operate a television station to broadcast to Saudi Arabia. This prompted a frantic attempt by the Home Office to amend the guidelines of the Independent Television Commission to require consideration of Britain's national security interests.

Businessmen welcomed the decision to expel Mr Mas'ari. "It was in the interests of the UK to try to remove a man who was abusing British hospitality," said John Grundon, of the Middle East Association, the leading trade body for the region.

Companies piled on pressure, page 5; Leader comment, page 8

Market axing stuns City

Lisa Buckingham

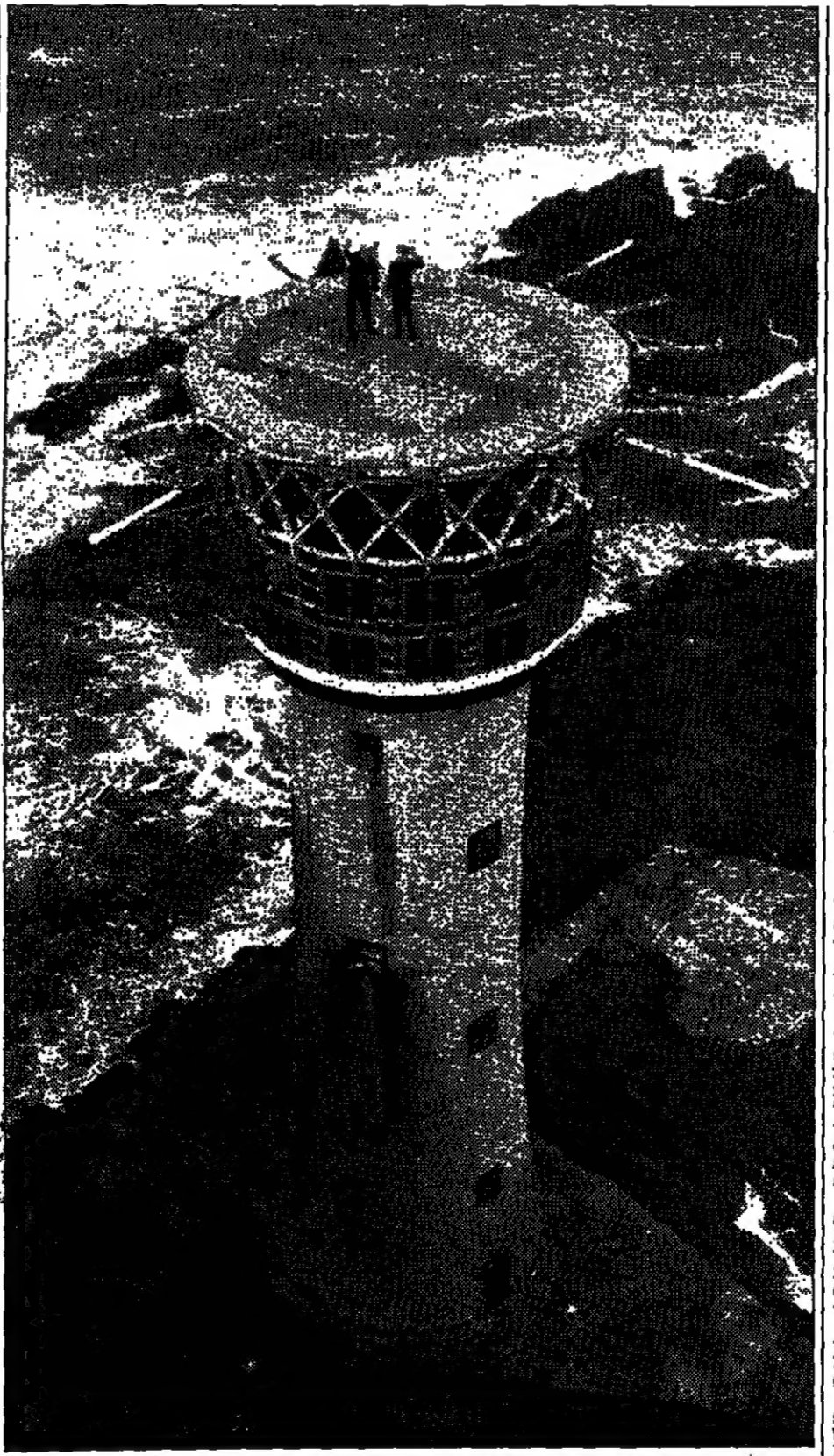
LONDON'S future as a world financial centre was plunged into crisis last night after the Stock Exchange unexpectedly sacked its chief executive, Michael Lawrence, and blamed him for a loss of confidence in the market.

The announcement stunned the City, even though major stockbroking firms had been mounting a fierce rearguard action against some of the innovations Mr Lawrence was trying to introduce. They had accused Mr Lawrence of trying to move too quickly and ignoring their concerns.

Modernisation of the Stock Exchange is seen as crucial to London's attempts to maintain its international role and draw business from the big finance houses around the world. Mr Lawrence had been pursuing a strategy of altering the way in which shares are transacted in London, bringing practice more into line with other financial markets. But the City's big battalions have spent hundreds of millions of pounds in recent years developing computer systems and trading staff to work in the London stock market's specialised way.

The latest debacle at the Stock Exchange comes at a time when the City's main institutions are under increasing pressure. Lloyd's of London, one of three pillars of the Square Mile, is currently in a battle for its survival as it seeks to settle its differences with investors. The second pillar, the Stock Exchange, now faces turmoil with its leadership among European bourses potentially threatened. Only the third pillar, the Bank of England, stands reasonably secure, and it felt it necessary yesterday to move in senior executive support to the ailing Exchange.

Recent changes to the rules governing share trading across the European Union have given a boost to rivals of the London exchange, such as Paris and Frankfurt. There is deep concern that if the London Stock Exchange lacks a coherent strategy, supported by its major users, its position as the world's third-largest



Ecological beacon... Lighthouse keepers Dave Appleby and Dave McGovern wait for a helicopter to lift them off the Hanois lighthouse in Guernsey. The lighthouse is the first in the British Isles to be fully automated by solar energy

Brewer seeks to control the parts other sponsors cannot reach

Michael Ellison

WHEN Heineken wanted the perfect matchmaker for its lager and a youthful new market, it could hardly have done better than go to the television company which brought you The Big Breakfast and The Word (proprietor, Bob Geldof).

Meetings were convened, deals done, and the beer that refreshes the parts others cannot reach became the sponsor of Hotel Babylon, the "young and exciting" guests-and-music-show which starts a 52-week run on ITV tonight.

But after seeing a recording of the first programme Heineken felt obliged to chip in a few observations along with its contribution of at least £100,000.

For one thing, there wasn't enough beer on the screen. "More evidence of beer is not just requested, but needed," Justus Kos, handling the sponsorship for Heineken, told the television production company in a fax.

"Less men drinking wine, preferably masculine drinks like beer, whisky, long drinks," Mr Kos suggested.

Care had to be taken over who was allowed into the studio. "The audience should be aspirational but not too much on the edge." And one final thing: "There was a too-high proportion of negroes."

Mr Kos was unable to elaborate yesterday because he was in "a big meeting". But Karel Vuurste, Heineken's chief executive officer, said: "It should never have been written. I'm shocked since it's totally against everything Heineken stands for. I assure you that proper steps will be taken to prevent a recurrence."

When Heineken saw a Hotel Babylon pilot 12 months ago it asked for a

Ministers seek waiting list coup after blitz on NHS operation delays

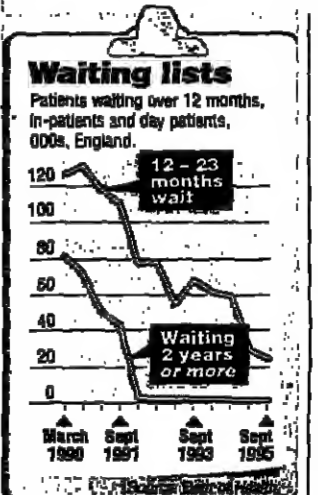
David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

WAITING lists for some hospital operations are being wiped out in parts of Britain as health authorities try to clear queues before the general election. Ministers are confident they will be able to declare, possibly as soon as this spring, that no patient in England need wait more than a year for treatment of any kind on the National Health Service.

No formal target of a maximum 12-month wait has been set. However, all health regions are working feverishly to clear their lists of patients who have been queuing longer, if necessary by sending them to private hospitals.

As a result of the drive, waiting lists for certain operations in certain areas have in effect been cleared altogether — with some experts predicting that such lists will soon be a thing of the past.

Mike Marchmont, who oversees waiting lists in the West Midlands, said yesterday: "There is no reason why there should be waiting lists in the NHS by the year 2000. We are absolutely clear on that."



the South and West had very few.

In Anglia and Oxford, which had 2.7 per cent waiting more than a year, extra operating sessions on weekdays and Saturdays have been introduced in Bedfordshire, a ward has been reopened at Ipswich hospital and extra cash has been granted to the Milton Keynes and South Buckinghamshire districts to find solutions — including using the private sector.

In South Thames, which had 4.7 per cent, the region has established a "waiting list task force" which is concentrating on problems in Brighton, Guildford and at Ashford hospital in Middlesex.

North Thames presents the Government's main headache. Last September more than 11,000 patients — 6.8 per cent of its total waiting list — had been queuing longer than a year. Alone among the regions, it is reluctant to commit itself to achieving a 12-month target by the end of March.

The confirmed September 1995 figures, published yesterday, show that 27,900 patients (2.7 per cent of the total English list) had been waiting more than a year. The North West region had no such patients and West Midlands and

Continued on page 2, col 3

Why Does Your Memory Fail You?



Forget names, faces? A WORLD-FAMOUS memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men, salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said:

"Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating; whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved."

Simple Technique

And yet, he went on to explain, he has devised a simple technique which can improve even the poorest memory. What's more, it can even work like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater personal effectiveness. Everyone owes it to himself to find out more about this method.

Rapid Results

According to this remarkable man, anyone — regardless of his present skill — could, in just 20 minutes a day, improve his memory and concentration to a remarkable degree. For example, you need never forget another appointment — ever! You could learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. You may be able to imprint whole books on your memory after a single reading. You could be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact, you could even be more poised and self-confident in everything you say and do.

Free

To acquaint all readers of The Guardian with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating book, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. No obligation. No salesman will call. Just fill in and return the coupon on Page 6 (you don't even need to stamp your envelope) — write to: Memory and Concentration Studies (Dept. MCM36), FREEPOST 198, Manchester M60 3DL.

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Sketch

On the scent of a roll-over bundle



Lawrence Donegan

“WHAT is that smell?” The woman from Camelot, respondent in a canary yellow jacket and television smile which insisted “this is all about caring causes”, could contain herself no longer.

“Cash,” she said excitedly. “It’s the smell of money. Sixty million in used notes, isn’t it lovely?”

Actually, £50 million in used £10, £20 and £50 notes smells anything but lovely. It stinks, like a bag of dirty washing or a bucket of wet papier mâché.

professionally) and agreeing to sit on the cash for the photographers.

“She was in smiley-smiley mode and not chat mode today,” a Camelot spokeswoman explained.

No-one minded because the real star of the show, the squat bundle of paper in the corner of the room, said more about this week in British life than Anthea Turner, Sir Isiah Berlin or Babe the amazing talking pig ever could.

For those who’ve been to Mars for their Christmas hols and came back last night, the rest of us are in the terminal stages of NLF (National Lottery Fever) due to the onset of a double roll-over jackpot of at least £35 million.

Northern bishops are foaming at the mouth with indignation, condemning Aussies who come down with Acute Syndication Syndrome.

National Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley has been behaving like, well, like Virginia Bottomley.

Nine out of 10 people are likely to play and my sympathies are with them,” she beamingly said on yesterday morning’s Today programme. (Keep buying the tickets, Ginny.)

If she has finally gone mad, who can blame her? Which of us has not stared dreamily through a filthy office window on to Nirvana in the last few days?

NLF is a terrible illness but by far the worst strain is that suffered by Camelot employees, who have all signed employment contracts denying them the right to buy a ticket.

Scratch any one of them, poor souls, and they start spouting statistics like some deluded Dalek.

“One and a half million, rollover, 50 million, 35, 23.5, 55 per cent, 133, exterminate, blah, blah, 3.8 billion, exterminate...”

Saddest of all, they will tell anyone who is prepared to listen that Saturday night’s draw (BSC1, 7.50pm, as if we didn’t know) has “absolutely nothing to do with greed and everything to do with having fun and promoting good causes”.

Over the spokeswoman’s shoulder, I swear I heard the £0 million quid sniggering at that one.

Letters, page 8



A policeman passes flowers on to Ian Erskine, twin brother of the youth killed when he went to his father's aid in a street row

Youth beaten to death on mean streets of the ‘other’ Stratford



Anthony Erskine: ‘A kind and gentle brother’

Woodlands Road after going to help his father, who was involved in a row with youths. For residents of this post-war council estate it was a tragedy waiting to happen.

Anthony Erskine lived with his parents Harry and Dorothy, his brother Gary, sister Natalie and twin Ian in a two-storey, semi-detached house.

“This area has been left to rot and no one seems bothered about it. A lot of the youngsters go round in gangs because they have nothing to do, so they create trouble.”

Police acknowledged that they had been aware of problems in the area around Woodlands Road.

Det Supt Tony Bayliss, who is leading the investigation into Mr Erskine’s murder, said: “We understand there has been some trouble in the area. But it is not something the police have been called out to before.”

As tourists spent yesterday afternoon visiting tea houses and taking photographs, Mrs Walters was rushing home before it got dark.

“People think of Stratford as really posh and pleasant,” she said. “They come here from all over the world but they should come and have a look around here.”

And as though anyone doubted that undidated goodwill now flowed through those West End proscenium arches, the joint statement concluded drily: “Duncan Weldon is pleased that Stephen Fry has recovered sufficiently to resume his professional career and wishes him well for the future.”

First night

Where familiarity breeds content

Andrew Clements

Lindsay Quartet Wigmore Hall

A DISTINGUISHED critic once suggested that performances and recordings of the supreme musical masterpieces should be rationed, so their unique qualities might be preserved.

comprehensively and refuses to impose a glib stereotype on the music for cosmetic effect. Listening to the Lindsay is not always a comfortable experience — there are surface imperfections in their playing — but the honesty and musical sense are never in doubt.

Their project includes not just the 16 quartets but an extra work, the piece that opened this first concert. The Quartet in F major, with the catalogue number of H64, is Beethoven’s own arrangement of his F major Piano Sonata Op 14 no 1. It is a seamless piece of retelling, in which the translations from keyboard figuration to string articulation have been joined invisibly. It was deftly played, but the response was not quite as fresh and immediately inventive as it might be.

The major effort was being saved for the minor Quartet Op 132. (Each of the Lindsay’s concerts includes one of the late quartets — they will play the B flat Op 130 twice, the first time ending with the Grosse Fuge, the second time with the substitute finale.) The journey from the world of Op 18, with its origins in the works of Haydn and Mozart, to this totally new musical universe was a startling one, and their playing registered its sense of wonder — dappled with the tiniest expressive nudges and promptings in the faster music, drawn in fine, eloquent lines in the slower sections, and with the great Hymn of Thanksgiving laid out in a sequence of austere sculpted paragraphs.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday

Music, G2, pages 9-9

Police seek champagne clue in Celine case

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

RARE bottle of champagne could be a vital clue in the hunt for the killer of the French student Celine Figard, the detective leading the investigation said yesterday.

hampering his inquiry. Detective Chief Superintendent John McCammond told journalists in Worcester that Miss Figard had the Pascal Chretien champagne in her luggage when she was seen boarding a white Mercedes journey at Cheltenham service station in Berkshire on December 19. Her body was found in a layby near Worcester on December 23.

Depression scuppers trial

John Ezard on the illness that ended a blackmail case after 15 attempts to start it

OFFICIALLY, Michael Wolfe’s depression was described as “very unusual” and even unprecedented after it allowed him to walk free from the Old Bailey yesterday. But try telling that to the 1,500 members of Depressives Anonymous.

Mr Wolfe, an alleged blackmailer, got so clinically depressed every time he was due to go to court that 18 months of attempts to bring him to justice had to be abandoned, the court was told. His case was listed 15 times. Every time the threat of a hearing was lifted, Mr Wolfe’s depression lifted too.

Peter Clarke, prosecutor, said before applying for the case to be dropped: “It’s a forensic syndrome. I haven’t come across before on such a chronic scale.”

woman said. The decision was taken after assessment by an independent counsellor and barrister.

Mr Wolfe, aged 49, former chief executive of the Herpes Association, was accused of demanding £250,000 from the Wellcome Foundation for silence over the alleged ineffectiveness of its cold sore ointment Zovirax, used worldwide by 33 million herpes sufferers.

He allegedly threatened to publicise tests on the drug and complain to MPs about marketing practices.

The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney, warned him the prosecution would be revived if he took any further action against the Wellcome Foundation.

Mr Clarke said: “I have no doubt Mr Wolfe’s symptoms in the days before trial are not feigned.”

NHS waiting reduced

Continued from page 1

A North West spokeswoman said: “A patient now need wait only a week or two in some cases.”

In Scotland latest figures show that only 1,600 (1.8 per cent) of patients on waiting lists have queued longer than a year. In Wales, the figure is far higher, at 5,100 (6.3 per cent).

months of joining a list. Critics also say waiting list figures do not show how long it takes to get on a list — 17 per cent of outpatients have to wait more than 13 weeks for a first outpatient appointment and 3 per cent more than six months, according to official data.

The Labour Party today releases statistics showing that the value of health care bought by the NHS from the private sector soared by almost 50 per cent last year, from £383.971 in 1993/94 to £583,252 in 1994/95.

Alan Milburn, shadow health minister, said: “The taxpayer is footing the bill for a massive state subsidy to the private healthcare industry.”

Fry settles over walkout

Owen Bowcott

THE comic and novelist, Stephen Fry, yesterday reached an out of court settlement with the producer of the West End play, Call Mates, after waiting out of it last year suffering a nervous breakdown.

Duncan Weldon of Triumph Proscenium Production, who has been seeking £750,000, ages and legal costs to play at the Albery, was forced to end a lawsuit when Fry, who had appeared and worked on the Continent, agreed to the settlement.

But the first £2.13m of the settlement reports Fry to pay only £20,000. Fry will receive an additional £235,000 from his private insurers who accepted that the comic had been medically unfit to continue performing.

The dispute centred on Fry’s health. Mr Weldon had demanded that he be examined by his nominated doctors. But in a joint statement yesterday Triumph Proscenium acknowledged that Fry was genuinely ill at the time.

“Having had the benefit of expert psychiatric advice on the medical reports that Stephen Fry provided to Triumph,” the statement said, “Duncan Weldon now accepts that Stephen Fry was too unwell in February to continue to perform in Call Mates.”

Anthony Julius, Fry’s solicitor, said: “I’m pleased that the producers now accept he was too ill to perform. This closes the action.”

The £20,000 is unlikely to cause too large a dent in Fry’s finances. Two of his books, The Liar and The Hippopotamus, were bestsellers, and he had been working in comedy, on stage and in films non-stop for almost 14 years before he abandoned Call Mates.

Since the débacle at the Albery, Fry has shunned the spotlight.

“He’s concentrating on writing now rather than performing,” his agent said. “He’s completing a screenplay of the book ‘A Confederacy of Dunces.’”

And as though anyone doubted that undidated goodwill now flowed through those West End proscenium arches, the joint statement concluded drily: “Duncan Weldon is pleased that Stephen Fry has recovered sufficiently to resume his professional career and wishes him well for the future.”

FINAL STRATFORD PERFORMANCES BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO NEWCASTLE. RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. The Taming of the Shrew. William Shakespeare's. JOSIE LAWRENCE IS A MAGNIFICENT KATE. 'INGENIOUS...INVENTIVE... FARCICAL FUN' GUARDIAN. 9, 10, 16, 17, 22 & 26 January. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Box Office 01789 295623. February 19 - 27. Theatre Royal Newcastle. Box Office 0191 232 2061. This production is sponsored by ALLIED DOMECO.

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Blair pledge of free trade and low tax

Michael White and Will Hutton

TONY BLAIR will today tell the captains of the Japanese industry that the only way Britain can fulfil John Major's ambition to become the enterprise capital of Europe is by first modernising the country's educational system to make it the knowledge capital of Europe.

In a speech in Tokyo, the Labour leader will also seek to reassure potential Asian investors in Britain that a Blair-led government will be committed to free trade, global markets, competitive tax rates and tight financial disciplines.

But Mr Blair will also use his address to the Keidanren — the Japanese equivalent of the CBI — to launch the next phase of his modernisation project. It casts New Labour as the champion of a socially cohesive, high-productivity "stakeholder" economy and society, distancing Mr Blair yet further from traditional socialism while outflanking Conservative advocacy of free markets and unavoidable change.

The dual commitment to an enterprise economy coupled with educational opportunity and social justice for those at the bottom of society — who are better educated and integrated in Japan than in Britain, Mr Blair suggested — drew savage attacks from ministers in London last night even before it was delivered.

Despite Mr Blair's commitment not to repeal the bulk of Tory trade union legislation, the Trade Secretary, Ian Lang, argued that his Far Eastern trip, coupled with Gordon Brown's visit to the US this week, would "jeopardise our immensely successful record in attracting inward investment" by raising the spectre of higher taxes, constitutional chaos and the European social charter.

In fact, Mr Blair is seeking to sell a more subtle message to the so-called tiger economies of South and East Asia, whose commitment to social cohesion may make them more susceptible to Labour's message than ministers realise. On education, he will invoke the slogan "knowledge, infrastructure, technology" to extol lifelong access to education, the harnessing of new technologies, and a broader,

more creative approach. "A learning society, a country of innovative people is not a nation of automatons," he will say.

In Singapore on Monday, as well as in Tokyo, Mr Blair will stress that Labour aims to produce a high trust, creative labour force and company sector in order to match the dynamism of Asian capitalism. That would imply changes in company law to promote more "stakeholding" — employee and citizen participation — along with the cultivation of long-term commitments by financial institutions and world-class levels of education and training.

He will tell the Keidanren meeting that Labour not only accepts the policy implications of globalisation — "I reject protectionism as wrong and impractical" — but intends to turn it to Britain's advantage. "Britain offers much: a workforce capable of adaptability and skill, access to the EU's single market, the English language which we share with your largest trading partner, the US, and an attractive legal and commercial system."

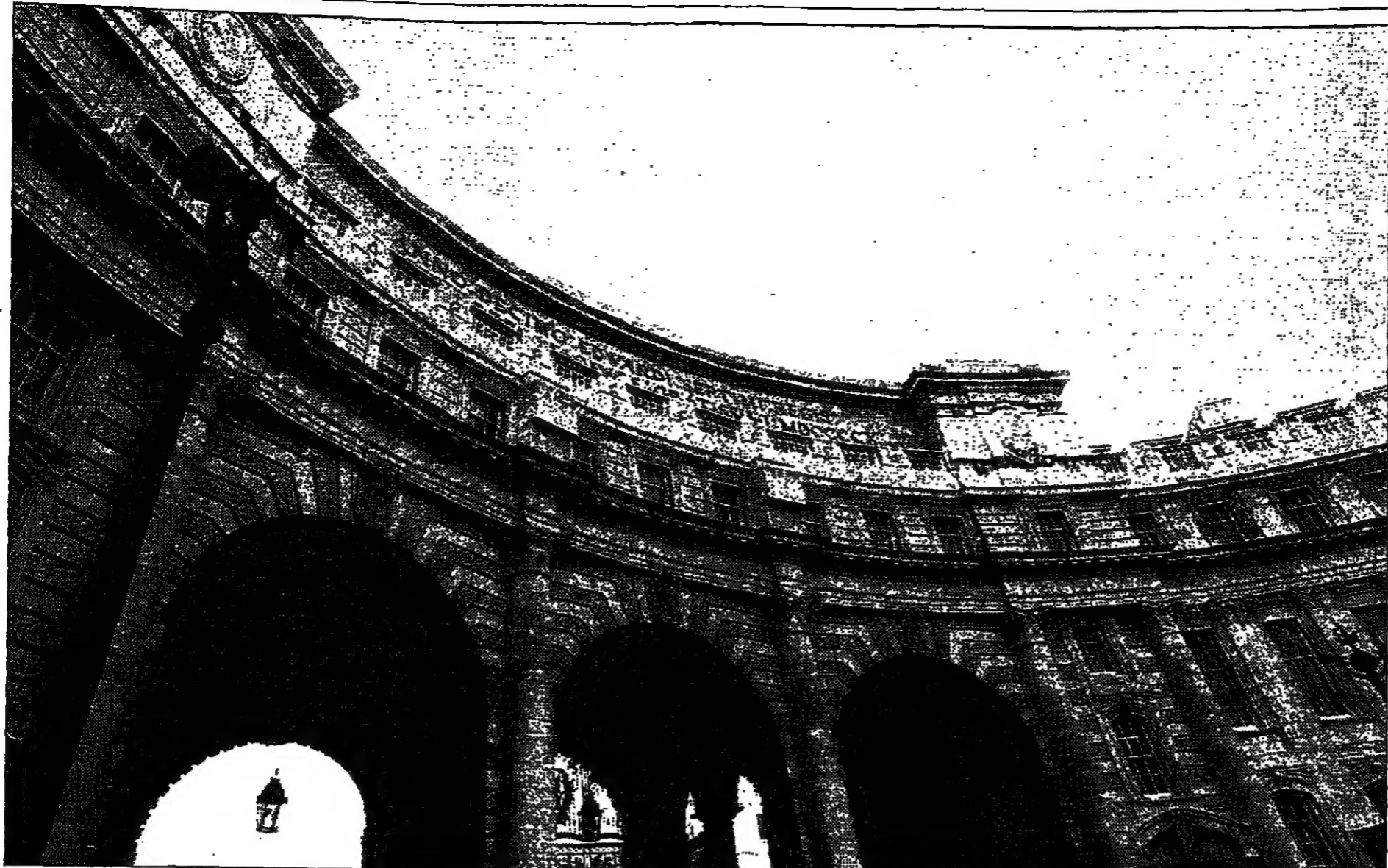
"Under Labour, I believe it would offer more; a better educated, more skilled workforce, better infrastructure, a stronger, more positive voice at the EU negotiating table and a macro-economy more conducive to sustained investment," he will pledge.

The speech also contains significant promises on tax regimes which will anger Tory ministers and leaving MPs. "Tax rates need to be internationally, as well as nationally, competitive," Mr Blair will concede.

However, his message also contains a crucial acceptance that "with globalisation comes its offspring — insecurity" which is social and moral as well as economic.

"I have argued that, in social terms, we need a new social contract between society and individual, in which rights and responsibilities are more closely defined, in which we grant each citizen a stake in our society, but demand from each clear responsibilities in return. "I would apply the same concept of a contract to the building of a strong economy. The successful form today works through partnership," Mr Blair will say.

Leader comment, page 8; Bel Littlejohn, page 9



Admiralty Arch, which straddles the Trafalgar Square entrance to the Mall in London. The monument could be bought by Rupert Murdoch or McDonald's. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

Admiralty Arch sale spurs sea lords' fury

Sellenhoff
Estate Agents
New in Must be seen

Admiralty Arch, Trafalgar Square, central London

This stunning Edwardian property of 135,000 square feet (including basements), is centrally situated among London's premier shopping venues, cinemas and theatres. Close to the underground, it offers excellent views of the National Gallery and along the Mall (where you will find the neighbourly discreet and charming). Boasting superb facilities it was built in 1910 and has been very carefully maintained by the current owners who are reluctantly selling due to straightened financial circumstances. One sitting tenant, the First Sea Lord.

View by appointment (and security clearance) only.

£9.1 million (with garage)

David Fairhall

ONE of London's foremost landmarks, the Admiralty Arch which straddles the Mall leading to Buckingham Palace, could be sold as anything from an hotel to an art gallery, Ministry of Defence estate agents Knight Frank and Rutley confirmed yesterday.

But rumours that "Old Admiralty", the 18th-century Whitehall building where Nelson's body awaited burial, might go the same way, were denied by the MoD.

Admiralty Arch was built in 1910 as a memorial to Queen Victoria. Until last year it was used as offices by the Royal Navy and to provide a flat — in the former servants' accommodation on the top floor — for

the First Sea Lord. The first to use the original, more opulent accommodation was the late Earl Mountbatten's father.

The current occupant, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, is among those who have been pressing for Old Admiralty's historic rooms to be preserved.

One of his predecessors, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, said yesterday that the historic boardroom in Old Admiralty should be preserved for the navy.

Speaking for an earlier generation, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, said Admiralty Arch and Old Admiralty were intrinsic parts of Britain's maritime heritage, something he would have thought even "a little creep like Portillo" [the Defence Secretary] would understand.

The arch will "probably be bought by Murdoch, or McDonalds, or somebody like that", he said.

An MoD spokesman said the Old Admiralty building, used mostly by the Foreign Office, would remain in Government hands. And, in particular, it was expected that the Admiralty would continue to use the oak-paneled boardroom.

It has a full-length portrait of Nelson and a chart of the semaphore system by which messages could be sent to Portsmouth in 11 minutes.

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said the future of Admiralty Arch was in the hands of Department of the Environment's Property Holdings agency. He said government use had not been ruled out and, whatever happened, ministers would give full weight to its "important historical significance."

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Bugging row erupts in S Africa

Police chief claims intelligence agency is spying on top officers

David Berosford in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICA'S police chief claimed yesterday that spies were snooping on his men in a bugging row that has drawn in the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and Thabo Mbeki, the country's deputy president.

He has summoned the intelligence agencies and cabinet ministers with responsibility for the country's spies to an emergency meeting next week to discuss the "disturbing" allegations.

The meeting was called after George Fivaz, the police commissioner, said a listening device had been discovered in the office of one of his provincial commanders and on the home telephone of a key official in the force.

Even more startling was his allegation that "former hit-squad commander Dirk Coetzee stated to a police officer that he was asked by the NIA to spy on me and other members of the police top structure".

The NIA in a statement said Mr Coetzee, an apartheid-era security policeman who defected to the African National Congress (ANC) and now works for the NIA, "has never received instructions by the NIA to do this effect".

Sizakale Sigazabe, director-general of the NIA, and Joe Nhlahla, the deputy minister with responsibility for intelligence, said in a joint statement that the allegations were "unfounded, nonsensical and mischief-making".

Mr Coetzee denied any involvement. "I am not involved in any investigation on police top structures. I was not requested by the agency to do any investigation of whatever kind of the police or any individual," he told state-owned television. "I have



Dirk Coetzee: former hit-squad commander

never been involved in bugging offices or bugging phones in my whole life. This is another attempt to discredit me."

According to the police commissioner, Mr Coetzee's disclosure that the NIA was targeting the police was made to a police officer investigating an apartheid-era political killing of a civil rights lawyer.

"I recently instructed that

the murder of anti-apartheid activist Griffith Mxenge be re-opened after Mxenge's brother demanded to know why nothing was being done about Dirk Coetzee who had publicly confessed to the killing. An investigating officer was also sent to Coetzee who then said to the officer that he had been asked with investigating me and other top police officers."

Mr Fivaz confirmed that — in addition to the two bugs which had been found — some provincial police commissioners had "reported surveillance by unknown agents".

Reports of in-fighting within the security services and, in particular, the intelligence agencies — the NIA and the South African Secret Service (SASS) — have been circulating for some time. Distrust has been almost universal since they were formed by the amalgamation of the old National Intelligence Service (formerly BOSS), homeland agencies and the ANC's intelligence department.

Privatisation vouchers? That'll do nicely, say Polish prostitutes

James Meek in Moscow

WITH sub-zero temperatures making the streets of Eastern Europe's capitals ever harsher places to stand around all night waiting for clients, it is not surprising that the prostitutes of at least one city are seeking a long-term return from their short-term engagements with customers.

According to Polish state television, some call girls in Warsaw are accepting privatisation vouchers in lieu of cash. The vouchers give their

owners a stake in Poland's privatisation process.

"We just want to make money and the vouchers are a good investment," one of the women told the news programme.

If the sexual services index is any indicator of the success of the voucher programme, it is doing well. Shortly before the New Year a voucher bought a quarter of an hour with a woman. This has now shot up to 30 minutes.

On proof of Polish citizenship a voucher can be bought for 20 zlotys, about \$5. But they are worth nearly three

times as much on the grey market.

Poles have always seemed to embrace capitalist values with the greatest enthusiasm of all East Europeans, but the status of the new privatisation voucher sets a record for liquidity of financial instruments.

Russia's voucher privatisation scheme flared in and out of existence in 1994. Unlike the Polish system, Russian vouchers were distributed free to all citizens.

At their peak, the Russian vouchers were being traded for more than the Polish ones

are worth now. But Moscow is more expensive and more conservative financially than Warsaw and it would have been hard to imagine a representative of a Muscovite escort agency bothering to take off her fur coat on the promise of attractive long-term investment opportunities in Russian industry.

However, the many street kiosks dealing in vouchers and vodka suggested that at the time a significant number of Russians chose to invest in a more secure and reliable liquid asset with known and tested qualities.

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Las Vegas is a Disneyland in the desert, a place for pensioners, young marrieds and 12-year-olds with money belts. People look as glamorous as a National Express coach party to Bournemouth. They play at fruit machines on fixed budgets, are joined at the shoulder to their camcorders. It is not Gomorrah, but a cross between the Universal Studios Tour and Brent Cross.

Review cover story

ANCIES
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سلاسل

Downing Street, Home and Foreign Office were urged to take action against dissident whose presence in Britain threatened key contracts

Companies piled on pressure to halt damage to Saudi trade

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

MOHAMMED al-Mas'ari, the Saudi dissident being expelled to Dominica, had become something of an obsession for the British government in recent months as concern mounted over damage to trade and diplomatic relations with the world's most powerful oil producer.

Leading arms and aerospace companies, including Vickers and BAe, urged Downing Street, the Home Office, and the Foreign Office to take action, with MPs warning of redundancies if key contracts were lost because of Saudi anger.

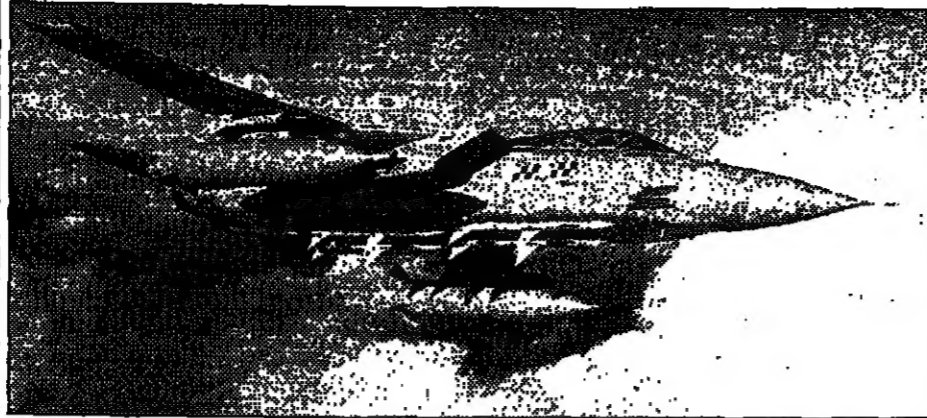
One influential industrialist said: "When people's constituency interests are threatened it is remarkable how quickly the moral argument disappears." Britain was the largest supplier of major weapons systems to Saudi Arabia from 1980 to 1992.

But many non-military firms feared problems too. In 1994, Britain exported \$1.5 billion of goods to Saudi Arabia and sold \$580 million of weapons to the Middle East and North Africa. John Grunden, of the Middle East Association, said: "It is astonishing to say this is all about the arms trade."

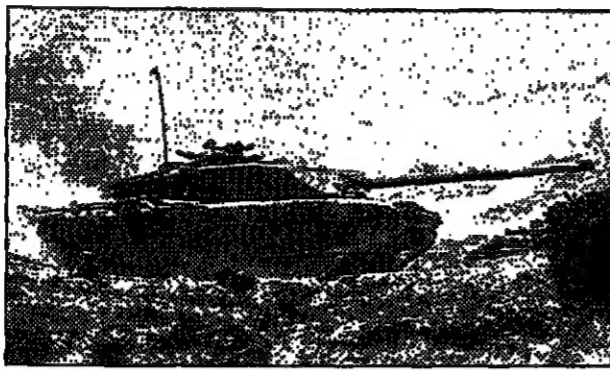
One exporter said: "Privately, a whole range of British businessmen will breathe a sigh of relief. They have been getting extremely anxious about the situation."

"But publicly people will feel very uncomfortable. It's a reflection on the UK's new world position. If you look at the trade statistics, the Middle East is one of the few areas where we've got a visible trade surplus. Britain has to balance political principle against external trade factors. By and large there's no alternative."

As Whitehall struggled to deal with the Mas'ari problem, it faced a clear choice between freedom of speech and



Supply line... Tornado fighters and Challenger tanks are among Britain's chief Saudi exports



'When people's constituency interests are threatened it is remarkable how quickly the moral argument disappears'

an unscrupulous realpolitik that was bound to attract the condemnation of liberals and human rights activists.

Initially, the Foreign Office explored changing the asylum laws so that people seeking to stay in the UK would have to prove their presence was not detrimental to British interests. But this was deemed a legal minefield that could take years to cross.

Saudi Arabia itself lobbied long and hard, insisting it understood that British law and traditions were different from their own, but nevertheless clearly expecting some solution.

One regular visitor to Saudi Arabia said: "You've got to get inside their mind set. They don't understand how you can potentially damage your trade because of the

great liberal principles we all live by in this country."

According to one source, just before Christmas the British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, David Gore-Booth, was "wirebrushed" by the Saudi defence minister.

Princes Sultan, after earlier bruising encounters for Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd, and the present Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

Threats had been coded and non-specific, with only one

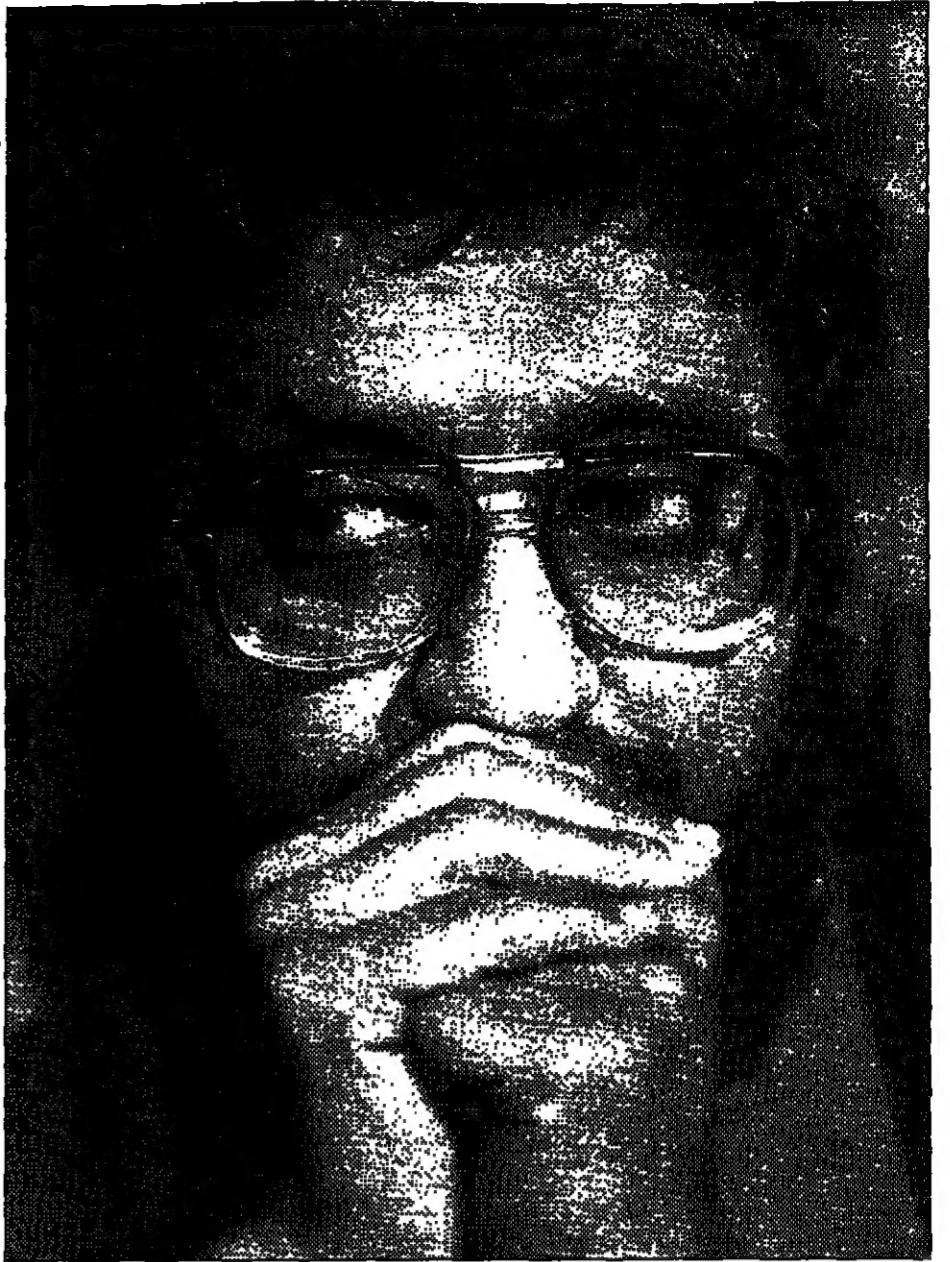
known case of a contract that should have been awarded to a British company — a planning consultant — going to a foreign competitor. Defence firms are especially worried about inroads by the French.

The Government had other considerations too. Since arriving here in 1994 Mr Mas'ari has become a beacon for a wider group of Islamic dissidents, giving London an unwelcome reputation as a centre for militants working against Middle Eastern regimes friendly to Britain.

His Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights began recently to publish a bulletin in conjunction with an Algerian exile group fighting the military regime there, giving flesh to the idea of a fundamentalist international.

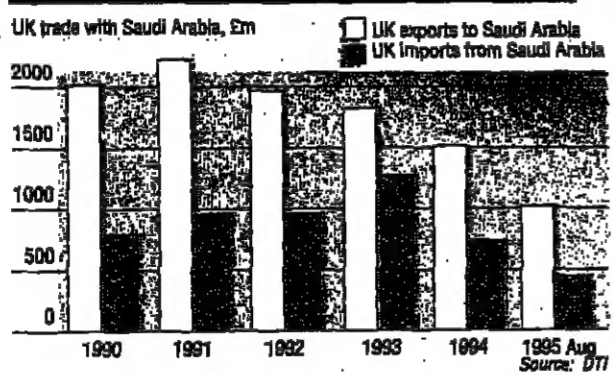
He also had plans to seek a licence for a TV station. Saudi Arabia made no comment on the British move, but it and other Arab governments will be pleased with a decision they see as long overdue after repeated representations. Some will also see an opportunity for themselves.

The tiny Gulf state of Bahrain has protested strongly about the presence in Britain of several dissident clerics, while Tunisia complains repeatedly about Rashid Ghannouchi, the fundamentalist leader granted asylum here. Egypt is also lobbying hard over two militants of the outlawed Jihad movement who have been sentenced to death in absentia for involvement in terrorist activities.



Mohammed al-Mas'ari at a Commons press conference yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BILLITTE

Balance of trade



Asthma cases still increasing

Chris Millill
Medical Correspondent

ASTHMA cases are continuing to increase, with the number of children suffering symptoms having doubled between 1988 and 1994, researchers say today.

There have been suggestions that the reported rise in asthma cases has been falling off, and may have peaked in the 1980s, but doctors behind the study say this is not so.

Some unidentified common cause is probably responsible for the increase, along with that in other allergic illnesses such as eczema and hay fever. The researchers say this is unlikely to be air pollution, and may instead be a dietary deficiency of certain vitamins, such as vitamin C and beta-carotene.

Maeda Omran and George Russell, of the Royal Aberdeen children's hospital, analysed questionnaires from 14,034 children aged eight to 14 from 34 of the city's schools, asking about symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, night coughs, and diagnosed cases of asthma, eczema, and hay fever.

The unit made similar surveys in 1964 and 1989, and found a substantial increase in allergic diseases over the 25-year period.

The new study, published in the British Medical Journal, shows the rise is continuing.

Between 1989 and 1994, the proportion of children with a reported diagnosis of asthma roughly doubled, from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. Cases of eczema rose from 12 per cent to nearly 18 per cent, and hay fever stayed the same, at around 12 per cent.

The researchers dispute recent suggestions that asthma and related wheezing illnesses reached a plateau in the 1980s.

"Our study, performed on children in the same classes of the same schools during the same month as the 1989 study suggest that, at least in Aberdeen, the prevalence of childhood wheezing illness is still increasing."

"Increased professional and public awareness of asthma might be responsible for some or even all of the increased diagnosis of asthma, but is unlikely to explain the increase in reported symptoms."

The doctors say their study was not designed to look for possible causes for the rise in numbers, but since they had also seen increases in cases in children in the Highlands "we find it difficult to believe that outdoor air pollution is a major factor."

They add: "We are inclined to support alternative hypotheses, such as dietary deficiency of antioxidants, or changes in indoor environment or lifestyle."

Tony had brought along just the basic minimum of close personal advisers — yours truly, Jack Straw, Robin Cook and of course the much-loved John Prescott, to lend a hand with the luggage.

Bel Littlejohn page 9

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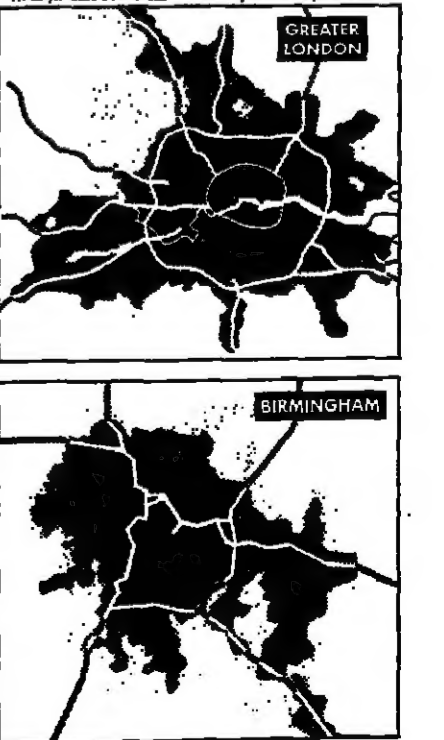
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News in brief

Corruption inquiry threat to SNCF chief

A CORRUPTION inquiry involving payments of at least \$212,000 is threatening Loik Le Floch-Prigent, who was appointed head of the SNCF French state railways only a fortnight ago to deal with the national strike.

Beijing warning to US

SINO-US relations got off to a rocky start this year when Beijing advised Washington not to issue a visa to the vice-president of Taiwan or to interfere in Beijing's interpretation of human rights.

Tanks buildup in Liberia

HUNDREDS of troops from the Ecomog African peacekeeping force massed with tanks on a road to western Liberia where 130 fellow peacekeepers are held by guerrillas, witnesses said yesterday.

Christopher to join talks

THE US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, was due to join closed-door talks between Israel and Syria last night, adding weight to reports that two weeks cooped up together in a remote Maryland resort has brought the two countries closer together.

One-time followers of the Bosnian Serb leader are joining calls for him to be tried as a war criminal

Karadzic - from saviour to scapegoat

Chris Hodges in Banja Luka

THE Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, is increasingly reviled and isolated among the one million Serbs he rules.

Sarajevo captives handed over

SARAJEVO Serbs released 16 Bosnian civilian hostages yesterday, under pressure from Nato and the United States to defuse the first confrontation between peacekeepers and the former warring parties.

Methods used to achieve those goals

The Pale leadership has long relied on paramilitary groups, such as those under the control of the notorious commander Zeljko Raznatovic, known as Arkan, to expel and murder Croats and Muslims living in Serb-held areas.

Mr Karadzic steps aside

Mr Karadzic's party was one of the first to call for rebellion against the Bosnian government at the start of the war. He led past efforts to reject peace plans and, as he was not indicted as a war criminal, he can stand for election.

Mr Karadzic's party

Mr Karadzic's party was one of the first to call for rebellion against the Bosnian government at the start of the war. He led past efforts to reject peace plans and, as he was not indicted as a war criminal, he can stand for election.



Family portrait... A pre-war picture shows Irma Laplasse with her husband and children Fred and Eugenie at their Oostduinkerke home

Execution case stirs old furies

Efforts to rehabilitate a Nazi collaborator shot for betraying the wartime Resistance could start a flood of compensation claims, writes Stephen Bates in Brussels

A CASE arising out of the shooting of a Nazi collaborator 50 years ago is threatening to reopen deep divisions in Belgian society between Flemish nationalists who fought for Hitler and French-speaking Walloons who sided with the Allies.

soldiers were approaching the outskirts of the town, the Germans attacked the school, freed Fred Laplasse and his friends, and killed the young Resistance members.

Belgium was divided in wartime between the northern Flemish, some of whom volunteered to fight on the eastern front for the Germans, and the southern French-speaking Walloons, who formed the governing elite.



Fred Laplasse... Appears in papers giving Nazi salute

Blast ends a nuclear nightmare

The blowing up of a Ukrainian silo today lifts a post-Soviet missile threat, writes David Fairhall

THE Russian defence minister, General Pavel Grachev, will join his US counterpart, William Perry, at a remote Ukrainian missile site today to witness the destruction of nuclear missiles.

with nuclear weapons from the debris of the former Soviet Union.

warheads have been heading north ever since and yesterday Ukrainian officials said the programme was 90 per cent complete.

Advertisement for Direct Line Mortgages. Title: 'Why transfer your mortgage to Direct Line? Your building society reveals all.' Includes a table comparing mortgage rates for Halifax, Woolwich, Nationwide, and Direct Line. Contact numbers for London, Manchester, and Glasgow are provided.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom right of the page.

Republicans blamed as federal closures grow

Public fury grows at US budget crisis

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

AMERICAN frustration at the three-week partial government shutdown turned into bitter contempt yesterday, as rising public anger threatened to exact a high political cost from the three leaders at the centre of the dispute.

President Clinton sought to divert attention from the budget crisis — in its 21st day today — with an announcement that he plans a lightning visit to US troops in Bosnia this month. But the public mood is becoming increasingly sour, as the failure by president and Congress to agree on a budget deprives millions of Americans of essential services.

The House speaker, Newt Gingrich, and the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole — the likely Republican challenger to Mr Clinton in November's presidential election — are desperately seeking to dodge the blame for the closure of key agencies.

The Centres for Disease Control, which monitor infectious diseases and prepares vaccines, has been shut down, prompting fears that a flu epidemic in Nebraska could spread nationally. Federal

prisons reported that they are running low on resources — including toilet paper — while federal courts, including the supreme court, have run out of money and may shut down as soon as Sunday.

The US judicial conference warned that jury trials will have to be cancelled, indictments dismissed and injunctions could go unenforced.

Along with nine government departments and dozens of key agencies, the judiciary has not received its 1996 allocation of funds — held hostage while the Republican-led Congress demands Mr Clinton sign a plan to balance the budget within seven years.

Democrats and Republicans have sought to blame each other for the crisis. "This is not our shutdown," a Republican congressman, Susan Molinari, said. "This is the president's shutdown."

Mr Clinton has benefited, casting himself as the valiant defender of cheap health insurance for the elderly and of spending on education.

Aides believe Mr Clinton has gained by showing resolve — a quality singularly

lacking in the early years of his administration. Republicans admit they miscalculated by thinking the president would cave in quickly.

"They all bet on what they assumed was Bill Clinton's inability to take a stand on anything," said one Republican strategist.

Clinton advisers warn, however, that if the shutdown lasts much longer Americans will eventually blame him, as head of the government.

The most obvious political casualty is Mr Gingrich, who has been forced to take a hard line by radical Republicans. But Mr Dole may also suffer.

Conscious of public anger, he led a Senate vote this week for temporary funding to re-open the government. The move was rejected by the House — denting Mr Dole's image as a can-do leader and exposing him to cries of treachery from ultra-conservatives determined to keep the government closed until they get their way.

Seasoned observers say they know exactly when the crisis will end: only when Mr Dole, Mr Gingrich and Mr Clinton all see their political standing plummeting.

News in brief

Casualties stranded £1m reward to find drug baron

ABOUT 300 people wounded in heavy fighting in southern Sudan have gathered at a dispensary near the Uganda border that has no drugs, no staff, and no equipment, aid workers said yesterday.

The wounded, mostly rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army, are in Labone, a Sudanese village six miles from the border and 285 miles north of Kampala, diplomats in Kampala said.

from reaching the wounded, some of whom are severely injured. "There is very heavy, heavy fighting around Labone," said Filippo Clantia, a spokesman for the Italian charity International Service Volunteers.

The International Committee of the Red Cross will evacuate the wounded if asked.

THE United States has put up a reward of up to \$2 million (£1.25 million) for information leading to the conviction of the Burmese heroin baron, Khun Sa, writes Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok.

The offer came as a Burmese diplomat in Bangkok insisted that Khun Sa, aged 51, who surrendered his headquarters to Burmese troops, could not be allowed to go free. But he has not yet been taken into custody.

Pope to beatify anti-Nazi priest

THE Pope plans to announce the beatification of an anti-Nazi priest when he visits Germany this summer, the World Jewish Congress said in New York yesterday.

The Rev Bernhard Lichtenberg, died aged 68 while being transported to Dachau in 1943.

Drink clue to plane crash

Alcohol was found in the remains of the captain of the jetliner that crashed in Colombia last month, killing 160 people, American Airlines said in New York yesterday.

"The Federal Aviation Authority intends to retest the forensic samples in the United States as promptly as arrangements with Colombian officials can be co-ordinated," an airline spokesman said. — Reuter.

Portugal PM 'fine'

Doctors found nothing wrong with the Portuguese prime minister, Antonio Guterres, after he was taken to hospital in Lisbon yesterday. — AP.

Assets frozen

The Brazilian government has moved to freeze the assets of the Rev Edir Macedo, a leading evangelist suspected of evading taxes and defrauding his followers. — AP.

Paper may close

InfoMatin, which first appeared in French newsstands two years ago is likely to close after its owner, André Rousse-



Boy in the hood... President Clinton takes a break from the budget crisis yesterday PHOTOGRAPH SCOTT APPLEWHITE

Nafta hits Central American workers

Employees face the sack for organising unions, as countries vie for US business Juanita Darling in San Salvador writes

FOR Rosa Maria Mendoza, 1985 was a year of struggle. For the first eight months, she struggled to meet her quota, sewing 4,800 buttons a day on designer shirts at the Formosa Textiles factory in an industrial park east of San Salvador.

She struggled to survive on a \$80 monthly wage, paying a babysitter to care for her three children and walking half an hour to work every day because she could not afford the bus fare.

In August Ms Mendoza, aged 24, decided to embark on a different struggle. Along with 86 colleagues, she joined a union.

In October, they were sacked. When the union members tried to force their way into the factory to demand severance pay, all of the plant's 400 workers were locked out.

"They are punishing not only us but also innocent workers," said Ms Mendoza. "Of course, we are innocent too. Forming a union does not make us criminals."

But in El Salvador, as in many of the countries where contractors make goods sold under brand names in the United States, many employers consider forming a union a sackable offence.

The near certainty that any effort to unionise will result in mass layoffs and probably the closure of the factory has forced shop-floor organisers to look for new tactics.

Moreover, many Latin American labour leaders are convinced that offers of solidarity from US unions are part of a plot to drive factories out of their countries. Some have given up direct efforts to organise in favour of outreach programmes to make workers aware of their basic legal rights, which they say many export plants do not respect.

The situation is particularly difficult in Central America and the Caribbean. Export industries fostered by the Reagan administration's Caribbean trade initiatives have flourished as the Bush and Clinton administrations emphasised commerce with Canada and Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The activists were fired. This is a country where the laws are written but not enforced

"This is what has happened within one year of Nafta," says Carlos Arias, whose company makes Van Heusen shirts. "In Guatemala, 120 plants are closing down. We have quotas (limiting garment exports to the US). We pay duties."

Many manufacturers have decided that cutting labour costs is the only way to compete with the devalued Mexican peso and Nafta terms that will reduce Mexico's duties to zero and eliminate its quota restrictions over the next 15 years. That view has reinforced anti-union attitudes.

"The demands they make ensure that you will not be competitive," said Michael Patillo, the head of the Central American Sourcing Agency in Guatemala, a contractor that makes clothes for well-known US brands. "I would close down rather than allow a union into my factory."

A year ago, Mr Patillo almost closed down one of his three factories, which employ 800 people, because of an attempt to organise a union.

Mr Patillo, who is from the US but has lived in Guatemala for 12 years, was vulnerable to a unionisation drive after losing a big contract. The factory switched from making silk evening gowns and lace bridesmaid dresses to nighties and casual wear.

Mr Patillo tried to convince his workforce that they could make just as much money sewing quickly as they had sewing skillfully, but what they saw was a severe drop in pay and an increase in their hours. Previously, the seamstresses had been making about \$5 a day, double what most factory workers earn.

According to Mr Patillo, "the union identified somebody in the factory" who was angry enough to lead an organising drive.

The way union activist Flor de Maria Salguero remembers the story is that her neighbour Virginia Aguilar was working double shifts at Mr Patillo's factory, and taking 50 grams of stimulants a day to cope.

Ms Salguero offered to help her neighbour. "Five or six people who wanted to organise came to my office," she recalled.

"We began talking about what a union is, but the workers did not want to talk. They wanted to get an injunction banning Patillo from sacking employees or moving the plant, the first step in calling a union election in Guatemala.

"I felt we were going too fast. We got the injunction, but it didn't matter. They were fired. This is a country where the laws are only written, never enforced."

That was Mr Salguero's last attempt to start a union in Guatemala.

"We need these jobs," she said. "If we try to organise now, the plants will leave the country. We have already lost 14 factories to Nicaragua in the last month." — Los Angeles Times.

THE MIELE SALE



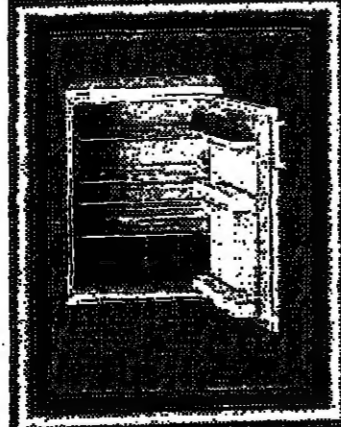
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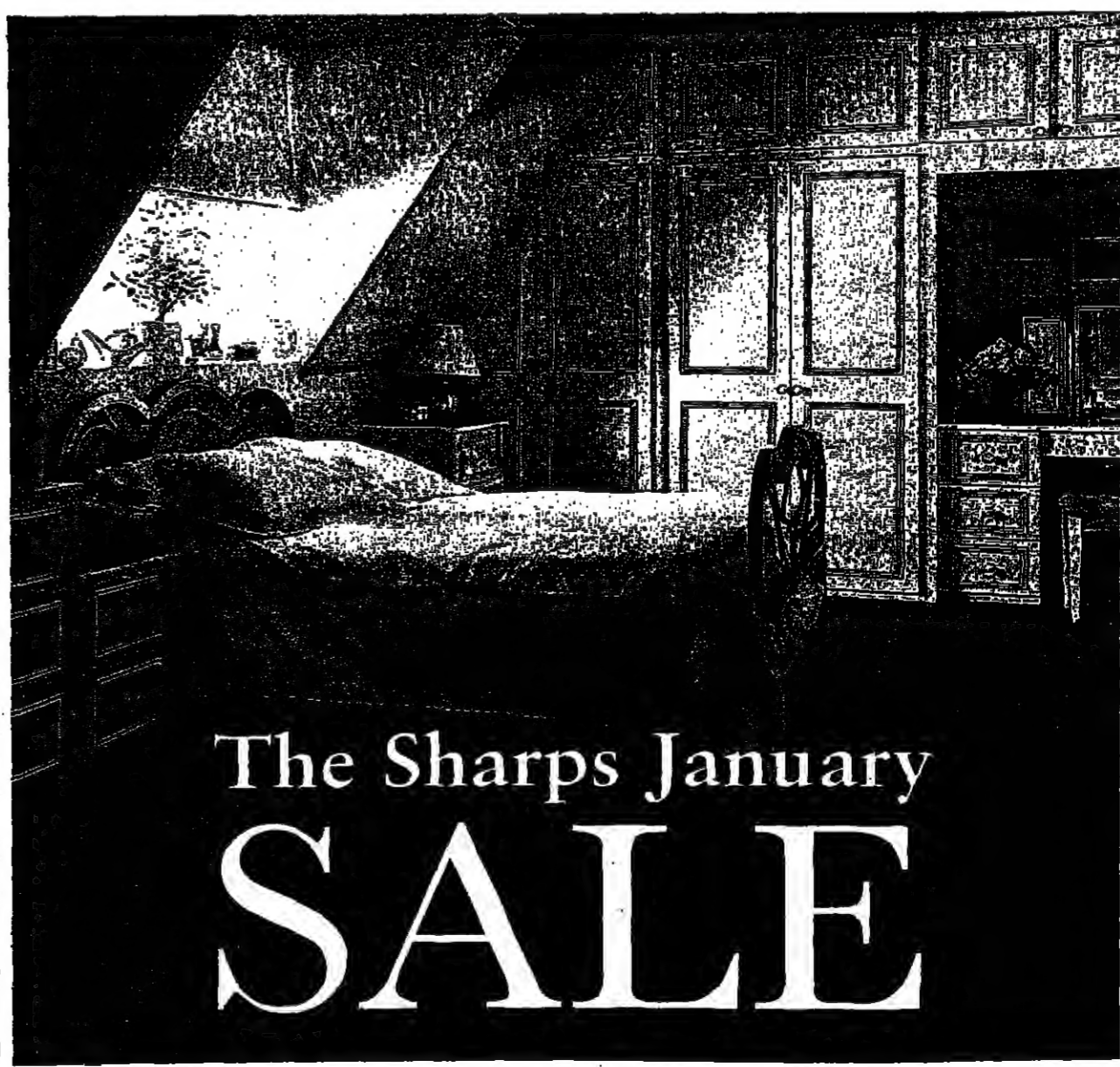
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old furies

nightmare

Journalist

Diary Matthew Norman

I AM concerned, yet again, for my friend Paul Johnson. He appears to be in the grip of a severe bout of writer's block that he is now relying on the

No place for dreams on the syllabus

Commentary Peter Preston

EDUCATION'S 30-year rule is iron-clad inexorable: what goes around comes around. This week's burst of old Cabinet papers may, in most respects, appear the stuff of pre-history.

Experiments cohesion. He laid the foundations for a revolution which, seven years later, had become so consensual, so utterly uncontentious, that a Conservative Education Secretary called Margaret Thatcher could set records for blending grammar schools and secondary moderns into a comprehensive future.

But trouble came quickly. Stewart had already begun to shrink from the original purity of manufactured catchment areas — where children from, say, deprived neighbourhoods would be bused each day to a leafy suburb.

Overviewing with Tony down under



Bel Littlejohn

GOODBYE 1995, a year I certainly won't be sorry to see the back of. It ended, as it began, on holiday with Tony, Cherie and the kids, this time on the outbreak in Oz.

depriving a generation thirsty for knowledge of any serious political and cultural news coverage. Thanks a lot, guys. And what does the future hold? From where I'm standing, the prospects look pretty damn bleak.

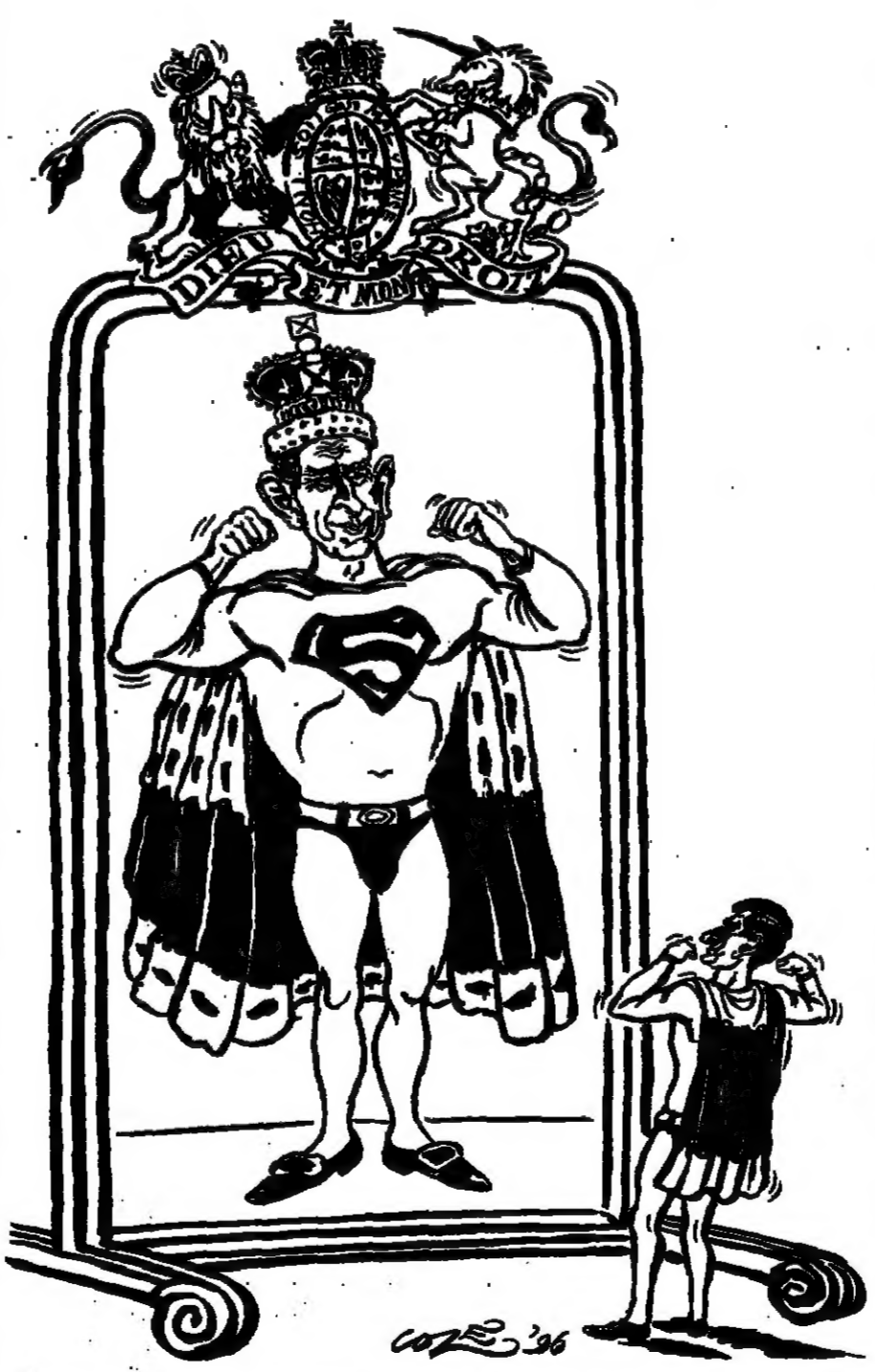
rvertic ventures

In further worrying news for Johnson fans, meanwhile, his status as the

Roy Hattersley argues that recent royal tomfoolery is a mere symptom of Britain's chronic constitutional malaise, which is crying out for radical surgery

About time we grew up

IT WOULD be easy to believe that, during the past six months, the monarchy has made itself ridiculous — easy but wrong. The monarchy (the institution, not the individuals who make it up)



longs to those countries which, long ago, abandoned the idea that birth alone is a qualification for anything, and look with amused contempt on the suggestion that some families can bequeath the right of respect to their heirs and successors.

it copyrig

CONFUSION surrounds the identity of the stalker whom Madonna has been so reluctant to face in a California court-room.

In the most astonishing no-face since Little Green Gun dropped his Selwyn, "Independent" has changed its name. It is now "the Independent".

FROM the world of commerce comes news of an exciting, three-way business merger — or, to quote from the understated press release, "a triple alliance more powerful than anything seen before in the industry".

should be either pseudo-classical or Georgian pastiche. Citizens of a grown-up nation should feel no obligation to observe the conventions of a medieval court and counter-fact belief in the royal family's omniscience.

view. No doubt Lord St John of Fawley will explain that the Prince's marriage is the Queen's business because she has an obligation to guarantee the safety and continuity of the royal line.

ters have been opened by the same malign agents of her estranged husband. Whether or not the allegations are justified, they amount to accusations of criminal conduct.

UNDoubtedly the monarchy's attraction is fading fast — not because of the personal conduct of the royal family (which should be none of our business) but because of the institution's obvious incompatibility with the modern world.

Either way, we would escape from our present absurdity — an aspect of our constitution which is nationally indefensible but kept in place by subservience and sentimentality. Growth-ups would regard that change as an enormous relief.

Advertisement for Hamilton Finance, featuring a large arrow pointing down with the text "Our rate is now down to its lowest ever" and a large "13.8% APR" figure. It includes contact information for a freephone number 0800 30 3000.

10 OBITUARIES

Arthur Rudolph

Nazi way to the stars

AT THE height of his first career as director of the production of V-2 rockets in Nazi Germany...

can in 1945. In the chaotic final weeks of the war in Europe, Werner von Braun's brother Magnus, an explosives and propellants expert...

essential knowledge of propellants, control and guidance systems had still to be gained. The potential of Dornberger's vision, guided by von Braun and Rudolph, was recognised...



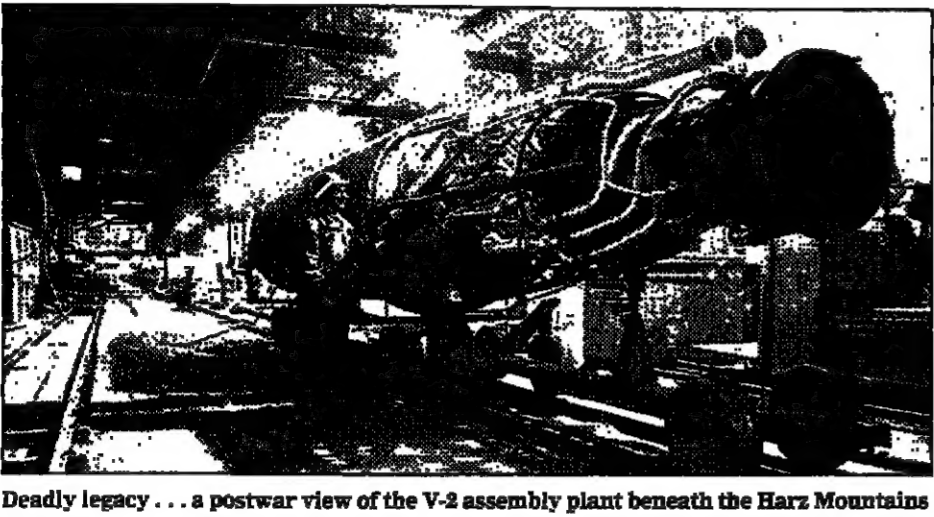
Arthur Rudolph... honoured and then exiled by the US

country had seized him as a prize enemy military scientist, perhaps saved him from execution and, for his own part, adopted, empowered and honoured him.

Elsie Osborne

For the sake of the child

ELSIE Osborne, who has died aged 71, was quietly charming. She was also one of the wisest of educational and clinical child psychologists...



Deadly legacy... a postwar view of the V-2 assembly plant beneath the Harz Mountains

Rudolph was forced to leave the US which had seized him as a prize

survivors began to be published, notably in Jean Burke's memoirs (Dora: Her Of All Concentration Camps, 1978). Arthur Rudolph argued that it would have been impossible to produce such sabotage-sensitive and complex technology in the horridly slave camp conditions that were being described.

Birthdays

Jean-Pierre Aumont, actor, 65; Alfred Brendel, concert pianist, 65; John Darby, chairman, ABB Transportation, 65; Robert Duvall, actor, 65; Ferruccio di Salva Eusebio, footballer, 65; Derek Harrison, inventor, 67; Sir Frank Bartley, pharmaceutical chemist, former vice-chancellor, London University, 65; Jean, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, 75; Vinnie Jones, footballer, 31; Kings Juan Carlos of Spain, 58; Diane Kruger, film actress, 50; Mansour Ali Khan, Nawab of Patnoidi, former cricketer, 58; Lord Kingsdown, former governor, Bank of England, 69; Jan Leeming, broadcaster, 64; Walter Mondale, former US vice-president, 68; Maurizio Pollini, pianist, 54; Lt Gen Michael Rose, former commander, UN forces in Bosnia, 56; Louis Stewart, jazz guitarist, 52; Gen Sir John Sillibon, former Master General of the Ordnance, 61; Allison Wright, director-general, British Invisibles, 51.

Admiral Arleigh Burke

Full power and glory in the Pacific

ADMIRAL Arleigh Burke, of the United States Navy, who has died aged 94, was his country's most successful wartime destroyer leader, known as "31-knot Burke" and finished his service career with a record six-year term as Chief of Naval Operations, the most senior post in the USN.

Letters

Nick Davies writes: There was a lesson in the life of Sid Thompson (obituary, January 4) and it was one which he was about to spread very widely. After the Guardian story last August about him and his climbing companion, Cliff Sandham, all kinds of people got in touch to ask for advice, or to try to join them, or simply to encourage them to carry on climbing.

Death Notices

SEITCHER, Joan Mary, formerly of Brentford, died peacefully at home on January 3, 1996, aged 82 years. Funeral to take place with the Rev. Canon P. J. P. O'Connell, C.M., at 11.30am on Thursday Jan 11th, 1996, at St. Andrew's Church, Brentford. All enquiries regarding funeral arrangements to the Redcross Co-operative Funeral Service, tel 0181 876 4422.

Another Day

January 5, 1821: Rose late - dull and drooping, the weather dripping and dense. Snow on the ground, and sycoco above in the sky, like yesterday. Roads up to the horse's belly, so that riding (at least for pleasure) is not very feasible.

Jackdaw

(for padding over the deep-pile carpets of the Inter-Continental in Zagreb) those big lunker-berk boots which look like suede bulldozers. They are masters of Bosnian war jargon.

Hacking it

NOWADAYS it is impossible to be taken seriously as a foreign correspondent or a real man without a Bosnian stamp in your passport. And so the place is heaving with journalists.

Roach heaven

ON THE LIST of laboratory animals being defended by animal rights activists, it is safe to say that you will not find the creatures now being

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Essex boy

WHEN Rodney Archer first moved into his Georgian terraced home in London's Spitalfields, his baggage didn't just include furniture and furnishings. He also brought with him a wide

Eau de JA

Jean Paul Gaultier's brazen perfume to shock Mansfield Park's Fanny Price out of her timid ways. Todd Oldham's dynamic perfume to embolden Persuasion's amiable but passive Anne Elliot to win her man.

Memorial Services

MARSH, Billy, 1917-1996. A Memorial Service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Billy Marsh will be held on Sunday Jan 14th, 1996, at 11.30am, in the Church of the Holy Trinity, 115 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2E 7HU.

Jackdaw

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Notebook

Threadneedle Steps in to prop up sagging pillar



Alex Brummer

THE removal of Michael Lawrence as chief executive of the London Stock Exchange may have been regarded as necessary by its board and members but will be viewed by many as catastrophic for the City's reputation as a financial centre.

globalisation of financial markets, snacks of weakness and amateurism at the highest level of the exchange. Clearing out chief executives is easy enough for boards on the defensive; but the patriarch style of John Kemp-Welch and his colleagues has not helped any more than it has at Lloyd's insurance market.

Lloyd's is in the final stages of a battle for survival. The Bank of England is sufficiently concerned about the future of the Stock Exchange and its effect on London's dominance as the trading centre of the new Europe that it has engineered its placement — Ian Flenderleith — into the position of deputy chairman. This is shrewd and sensible City politics for the Bank.

The exchange is no longer what it was before Big Bang in 1987, or for that matter Big Bang 2 in 1995 when an extraordinary number of independent British financial houses, from SG Warburg to Smith New Court, were absorbed into global monoliths like Swiss Bank Corporation and Merrill Lynch.

OPENED late last year when this high-profile trio of firms decided to move their equity business from London to local European exchanges, although they will still trade from their London desks.

transparent, order-driven exchange. It was unhappiness among some of the big battalions about the pace of the change which is understood to have been a key factor in Mr Lawrence's downfall. The exchange and Mr Lawrence may have been on the right track, but were not politically adept enough to carry along the key constituency of the six biggest market-makers — a fatal error.

requirements, may soon find itself in breach of the same rules over its pay-off to the hapless Mr Lawrence. The loss of an individual does not mean the death-knell for the Stock Exchange. But it does mean a substantial transfer of power from its Throgmorton Street headquarters to Threadneedle Street.

Market grandees stick the knife in

Top-level delegation forces action against Lawrence in face of crisis at the Stock Exchange

Peter Murphy

THE shock departure of Stock Exchange chief executive Michael Lawrence yesterday was precipitated by a delegation of Stock Exchange board members demanding urgent action from the Bank of England, according to senior market sources.

to the exchange's credibility. Last autumn Rudi Mueller, the London head of Swiss financial powerhouse UBS, resigned from the board and helped stir up the row over the exchange's future with a charge that it had failed to keep pace with innovations in other European markets.



make constant two-way prices in shares and who rank as the exchange's most powerful members — by bringing forward the introduction of the Sequence trading system to August this year. This new system will allow big investors, such as pension funds, to trade on an "order driven" basis — posting their transactions on trad-

ing screens and avoiding having to put their business through market makers. "This has been on the cards for some time," noted one of London's most senior market figures last night. "It goes back to the days of Andrew Hugh Smith, who ran the chairmanship in 1960s style. His successor, John Kemp-Welch, was great as a senior partner at Casanova. But he is from behind the beige door, rather than knowing the heat of the kitchen. The market makers have been saying that any change should come slowly, but Mr Lawrence was just left to run off on his own tangent. Tampons have been getting seriously frayed."

But Brian Winterflood, head of small-company market maker Winterflood Securities, insisted the council had simply "shot the messenger". "We have had a lot of propaganda about how quote-driven systems are no good because no one else uses them. But London is the third biggest equity market in the world, and 85 per cent of European share trades go through the City."

Brokers currently have to be members of the exchange so that they can use the Telford system for settling share bargains. But from next summer, when the Crest system (run by the Bank) is due to replace Telford, they will be able to purchase this service regardless of membership of the exchange.

"The exchange is going to be 240 million a year worse off, but we have not seen it doing much to cut costs," one said. An order-driven system would give it the opportunity to charge for usage.

Stock Exchange chairman John Kemp-Welch, flanked by Bank of England representative and new joint deputy chairman Ian Flenderleith, left, and established deputy chairman Ian Selzer, announces the dismissal of Michael Lawrence



PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

A case of order driven out

Why he went

Mark Miller

TO LOSE one chief executive might be thought unfortunate, to lose two looks like catastrophe. Yesterday's enforced, and abrupt, departure of Michael Lawrence from the Stock Exchange leaves one of the City's most august institutions seeking its third chief executive in three years — the sort of thing that, if it happened at one of its listed companies, might raise eyebrows within the exchange itself.

share certificates to be replaced with a computerised register — was not only over budget, but also would not do the job. The cancellation of the project caused the exchange huge embarrassment and Mr Rawlings carried the can for the debacle by resigning.

response to the emergence of a small domestic rival, Tradepoint, and a very public row with some City big guns over its strategy towards Europe. But the issue which seems to have had most bearing on Mr Lawrence's departure was his proposal to bring "order driven" trading to London. An order-driven market would allow investors simply to post buy or sell orders directly into a central system, rather than having to go through the market-makers who form the core of London's "quote driven" market.

Mood change in the City

I love to deal with change — Michael Lawrence on his appointment

I have been particularly impressed by the quality of skills and resources available at the exchange. I am confident that this knowledge and experience, together with the greater emphasis on organisation, co-ordination and direction under Michael Lawrence will ensure that the London Stock Exchange continues to meet the challenge of providing the market of choice in the UK and internationally.

It's with much regret that the board felt compelled to ask for Mr Lawrence's resignation. He had failed to win confidence of market firms, both large and small and his relationship with the Stock Exchange board had for several months been unsatisfactory.

I have never walked away from anything in my life faster than most people think I can speak faster than most people think — sayings of Michael Lawrence

A life in the fast lane

Profile

Lisa Buckingham

MICHAEL Lawrence looks set to receive a golden handshake of at least £350,000 thanks to a one-year rolling contract with perks attached.



Lawrence: relished change

Two years ago he bought comedian Rowan Atkinson's last Aston Martin car and is quoted as saying: "I can speak faster than most people think."

running a private aviation company and a property company. He once cited his strength as having the ability to emulate a helicopter, because of his capacity to rise above the details and spot the key issues. "I have never walked away from anything in my life," he once boasted.

Flagging car sales dent revival hopes

Motor industry sees disappointing figures as grounds for asking ministers to help give drivers a lift. Chris Barrie reports

GOVERNMENT hopes of an economic revival ahead of the general election will be dented today when the motor industry reveals that car sales managed only a meagre increase of about 1.5 per cent last year. As economists finalised the sales statistics last night, the industry was preparing to warn ministers that further fiscal measures are needed to revive the public's appetite for cars.

Official figures to be released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders today are likely to show that sales in December were flat at about 70,000 cars. The same month in 1994, when sales were in the doldrums, saw 73,200 cars sold.

The news is certain to lead to renewed pressure from the industry on the Government to do more to bolster consumer confidence despite recent cuts in interest rates and measures, including tax cuts, announced in the Budget.

and business sales, transactions that are usually on water-thin profit margins. The SMMT is also set to express disquiet. Its forecasting committee has pencilled in a sales increase this year to 1.97 million cars, rising further to 2 million in 1997.

That amounts to a rise of 9,500 cars on sales in 1994 of 475,000. Although BMW admitted that Rover's financial performance would not be in line with BMW's aspirations for at least two years, Bernd Fischer, the German company's chairman, added at the Detroit motor show that the Rover business was developing "successfully".

Vauxhall workers reject 'breakthrough' pay deal

Chris Barrie

VAUXHALL car company was on a collision course with its employees last night after workers at mass meetings voted to reject a pathfinding three-year pay deal said to be worth 10 per cent in the first year alone.

through in a five-year union campaign to reduce the basic working week to nearer continental patterns. German auto-workers this year enter the 35-hour week.

Transport and General Workers Union, said Vauxhall had misjudged the mood of the workforce and "once again shot itself in the foot".

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Australia 2.02 | France 7.40 | Italy 2.400 | Singapore 2.18 |
| Austria 12.20 | Germany 2.1800 | Malta 0.54 | South Africa 5.46 |
| Belgium 44.50 | Greece 385.00 | Netherlands 2.4500 | Spain 163.00 |
| Canada 2.04 | Hong Kong 11.80 | New Zealand 2.33 | Sweden 10.16 |
| Cyprus 0.6975 | India 54.61 | Norway 5.94 | Switzerland 1.7650 |
| Denmark 8.43 | Ireland 0.8550 | Portugal 227.50 | Turkey 50.225 |
| Finland 5.67 | Israel 4.84 | Saudi Arabia 5.70 | USA 1.5150 |

Tennis Crooked Croat survives

GORAN IVANISEVIC beat Wayne Ferreira in a clash of crooks in Perth, Western Australia yesterday to earn Croatia a place in the Hopman Cup final.

Though Croatia lost 2-1 to South Africa, Ivanisevic's 6-4, 6-3 win in his third successive straight-sets singles victory - was all that they needed to clinch first place in Group A ahead of the United States. They will play the champions Germany or Switzerland tomorrow.

Ivanisevic overcame a bout of food poisoning to overcome Ferreira, who has a broken knee in his right hand and a blister on his left foot, in 63 minutes. "I wasn't 100 per cent - I was up most of the night with stomach problems - but every time I broke his serve he gave me a couple of easy points," said the big-serving left-hander.

Switzerland took an unbeatable lead against the Netherlands with victories in both singles rubbers to match Germany's unbeaten record in Group B. Martina Hingis retained well to overcome Brenda Schultz-McCarthy 6-3, 7-5 and Marc Rosset beat the world No. 11 Richard Krajicek 6-4, 6-4 in only 69 minutes.



Teen wolf... Martina Hingis happily survived an onslaught of big serves yesterday to beat Brenda Schultz-McCarthy 6-3, 7-5. "I'm playing well," said the 15-year-old. "Why shouldn't I smile?"

Racing

Lammtarra rated best in Europe

Graham Cook

LAMMTARRA has been officially rated the best horse in Europe, following his victories in the Derby, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe but some racing enthusiasts will be disappointed that he was not assessed higher.

Despite the treble, previously achieved by Mill Reef 22 years ago, Lammtarra is judged to be 11lb inferior to Dancing Brave, the best European horse to race in the 18 years since the official classification was introduced.

However, achievement is not synonymous with ability, and Lammtarra had to fight hard to win his three races; the proximity of his rivals has rightly resulted in a conservative assessment.

He won his races through courage as much as ability, and it is a pity we were not able to measure him against this year's three-year-olds, who he would have been a four-year-old, said Geoffrey Gibbs, the senior handicapper. "He didn't sit part three of the exam."

ings only after considerable persuasion, and his reputation has been preserved by retirement.

Lammtarra is rated 11lb superior to Northern Spur, both horses best Freedom City in the season. Lammtarra by threequarters of a length in the Arc and Northern Spur by a neck in the Breeders' Cup Turf.

Ferreira, who defeated Freedom City by half a length in the Guinness Champion Stakes, is on a mark of 126, the handicappers believing that both horses were not as effective at the mile and a quarter as the Leopardstown race.

Among the milers Bahri, at 129, is rated 3lb ahead of Ridgewood Pearl, the difference between them being the filly's sex allowance, but it is apparent that too much attention has been paid to Bahri's success in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot.

On testing going, Willie Carson had the enterprise to take Bahri to the outer rail for the first half of the race, giving his mount the benefit of much faster ground, and Bahri turned into the straight a relatively fresh horse.

The handicappers accept that Ridgewood Pearl was below her best that day and point to a 12-length defeat of the Irish horse, Bishop of Cashel, who is regarded as a reliable yardstick. Immediately after the race Bahri was rated at 131, up 6lb from the 125 he earned from his impressive success in the St James's Palace Stakes. That is where he should have remained.

Having given Bahri the benefit of one dubious run, the handicappers have taken a different view of Lake Coniston, who earned a mark of 130 after his impressive victory in the July Cup. He ends the year on 127.

Handicappers across the Atlantic tend to assess horses on the overall balance of their form, rather than on a single performance, and in this case it appears that the officials have not taken his outstanding Newmarket victory at face value.

No doubt, though, about the best horse in the world - Cigar with a rating of 132. In Cigar's last race at Belmont he ran on a wet track, which did not suit him ideally, otherwise he might have finished the season higher.

Racing is dynamic, and it is impossible to compare horses from so many generations apart.

One reason that three-year-olds are finding it harder to earn elevated ratings is that the quality of opposition from their elders has been diminished in recent years by an influx of high-class horses to run in America after two seasons in Europe.

Newcastle card with guide to the form

Table of race results for Newcastle, including race numbers, names, and winners.

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Towcester runners and riders

Table of race results for Towcester, including race numbers, names, and winners.

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Southwell all-weather programme

Table of race results for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and winners.

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Results

Table of race results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and winners.

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Challenges claim

Boost for steel plant

EMU progress

ch-off

to premises

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring Kim Bailey and Towcester/Nottingham race results.

Lammtarra voted Europe's best, page 13
Lake gives up struggle with injury, page 14

Cobner confirmed as Wales supremo, page 14
Stewart unveils Formula One plans, page 15

SportsGuardian

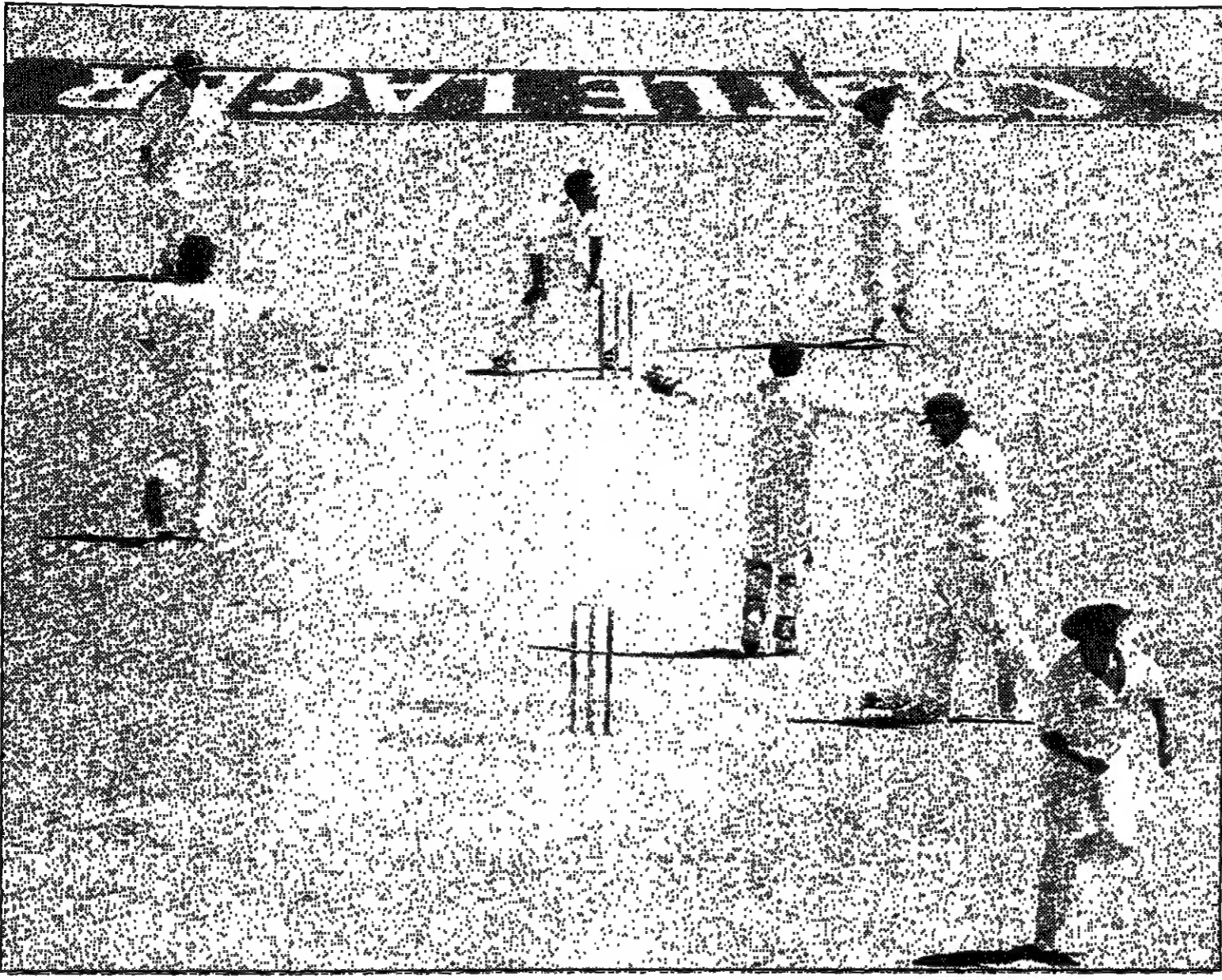
SOUTH AFRICA TRIUMPH BUT CAPTAIN IS FINED FOR REPLAY DISSENT

South Africa v England: fifth Test, third day

England's dismal roll-over

Mike Selvey in Cape Town sees a TV row but little fight

IN THE end South Africa won at a canter in the afternoon Cape sun. Asked to make only 67 to win after tea, Andrew Hudson (27) and Gary Kirsten (41) made such merry way at another packed Newlands that it was all over in less than 16 overs. The winning boundary, hit by Kirsten off Graeme Hick, sparked a cacophony of celebration. This win by 10 wickets came after a spirited England fightback, with a fifth-wicket partnership of 72 from Graham Thorpe and Hick taking the tourists into credit. It even threatened to make batting life hard for South Africa as Hick launched an assault on the left-arm spinner Paul Adams, which included two huge straight drives in a row. But then Hick fell leg-before to one that kept low from Shaun Pollock, who produced an inspired spell of fast bowling. It gave Pollock the best figures of his brief Test career, five for 33, and South Africa's lead widened to 100. England wickets fell for only 19 runs, the final four in the space of 10 balls, as the tourists were dismissed for 157. It was as if the fight had drained out of England.



Orchard bloomer... Hudson's throw hits the stumps but the scampering Thorpe is given not out for the time being by the home umpire CLIVE HAYSON

But, in line with bear-match tradition, they have agreed to play a one-day game against Western Provinces here tomorrow, as much to give practice to the many other England players here as anything else. The Western Province spokesman insisted that the tourists were doing it for £5,000. Someone is in for a shock. So a series that for four matches had plodded along like a coalman's horse finished in a tumble of wickets and a blaze of boundaries - and a controversy over the dismissal of Thorpe. The left-hander, in his first significant innings of the series, had reached 59 when he played a delivery from the left-arm spinner Paul Adams off his hips to short fine leg and was called for a run by Mike Watkins. Thorpe was late setting off, and the sharp Hudson made a direct hit on the stumps at the bowler's end with Thorpe struggling to make his ground.

It appeared to be a clear case for the third umpire and dry, Thorpe was out by at least a foot. A roar went up alerting the fielding side, and the South Africa captain Hansie Cronje immediately spoke to Thorpe and Orchard. Orchard, correctly, took the view that he had made a decision and that was it, right or wrong - and indeed he had committed a double error, by not using the technology on a close line-call and then by making a botch of the decision. Instead of laying down the law to Cronje, however, he was persuaded to consult Steve Randall, the Australian

official. As a result of that he called for the replay, which of course showed Thorpe to be out. Orchard then reversed his original decision. That Orchard made a huge initial error of judgment was obvious. Umpires of course do make botches of decisions, yet it remains axiomatic that their word is final. But if goes further at this level, for the International Cricket Council regulations for Test matches, agreed last October, state unequivocally not only that players must not appeal to the umpire to make use of the replay but that to do so constitutes dissent. In this case, Cronje and others in his side not only implored Orchard to think again but in effect coerced an umpire into reversing a decision.

Raymond Illingworth said he felt the right decision had been made but that the way it came left much to be desired. "It was made by the crowd in the President's Box," said the chairman of England selectors, "and you can't have that. Maybe there should be a rule that television cannot show a replay until after the next ball had been bowled. If the umpire has said not out twice, as Orchard did, then the next ball should have been bowled." The match referee Clive Lloyd saw it differently, however, and although he fined Cronje half his match fee for obvious dissent he also went out of his way to exonerate Orchard from accusations that he had done anything other than exercise his right

to change his mind without encouragement from a third party. Complete rubbish. Earlier Alist Stewart, flat-footed once more and playing away from his body, was caught at first slip off Pollock. Robin Smith, who added 44 brilliant runs with Thorpe, was caught by another poor Orchard decision after pushing forward to Adams, but behind him the ball deflecting from his front pad and past his glove to the wicketkeeper. The end came when Peter Martin hooked Pollock to long leg where Adams - inevitably - made a steeping catch look easy. Adams has taken to Test cricket like a Boer to biltong.

Matthew Engel and full scorecard, page 15

Where bulls have ways to shake Spurs



Frank Keating

YOU fear for its future but, as long as it remains the third round of the FA Cup is a truly madly, deeply magical phenomenon. The silk-ruffled dandified hoity-toity swagger in, to be met by a handful of the hot polloi looking to ambush them at the barricades. Some scruffy anarchists have made their names from this tradition of New Year bandy: the likes of Peterborough, Yeovil, Sutton, Hereford. Just as readily, some toff teams seem more susceptible than others to being slain. None more than the two north London swanks. Rheumy old men at Arsenal, for instance, still wince when you say "Walsall 1933", and their sons and grandsons do the same at mention of Bradford Park Avenue (1948) or Northampton 10 years later. The haughty Hotspurs from Tottenham, too, are famously liable, and their traditional third-round vulnerability was never put better to me than by that stalwart former Port Vale player and manager Roy Simpson seven Januaries ago, the day before Terry Venables brought his side to the Potteries.

"It will be such a culture shock for them, especially if the weather's raw," he said. "Out of their thick-pile carpets and centrally heated stockbroker houses and then their snug luxury coach, and for all their international caps and snazzy blazers and Italian shoes they'll have to head straight into our barn-like, concrete-floored visitors' dressing room with its cold-white tiles, no coat-hangers, only a couple of workbenches to sit on, and just one communal bath-tub. Our draughts can chill the marrow. And they only get a lukewarm cup of tea at half-time."

Tomorrow Tottenham go to Hereford, United, particularly famous filchers of this legend. The visitors' dressing room will be just as spartan, for the quaint little ground alongside the cattle market has suffered two bad fires this winter. The weather forecast

promises gales and driving rain. Immediately before the kick-off a real live one-ton specimen of United's emblem will parade the touchline perimeter: the Hereford breed's national supreme champion, Free Town Kudus. It will probably be the nearest any Tottenham superstar has ever been to real-life rural Middle-England. I suppose this hidden and un-savory rustic remoteness contributes to United's romance, but their regular slaying of football dragons has been dramatic all right. When they were still in the Southern League, United ambushed such comparative League newcomers as Scunthorpe, Exeter, Aldershot, Millwall and, by 6-1 in 1958, Queen's Park Rangers. Most celebrated of all, they beat Newcastle United 2-1 in 1972. The season after that rainswept glory in the tea-time gloaming of Edgar Street's slurs and sloes. United won admission to the League and a year later in the third round courageously drew with Bobby Moore's West Ham at Upton Park.

It was the winter of Prime Minister Ted Heath's three-day week, and no floodlit evening games were allowed. For the midweek afternoon replay at Edgar Street, the touchlines of the dingy ground were ringed with church pews and chairs as 17,428 packed the rafters (only 8,900 will be allowed tomorrow). HAD left the Hereford Times reporters' room some 15 years by then, being seen off on my travels with a farewell party of epic amnesia at the plush and lush mahogany-doored Green Dragon Hotel where (by all accounts) I had celebrated at the last by yavining colourfully over the carpet of the cocktail bar. The morning of the 1974 replay against West Ham, which I was to cover for these pages, I took the early train from Paddington to buy myself a slip-up pre-match lunch at the old place. The original son returns. It was the first time I'd been back. No sooner had the waitress brought to my table the pre-tentious great leather-bound menu to peruse than, through the kitchen's swing-door and across the cavernous, carpeted azulejo-paved, head-waiter I remembered from boyhood. "Not him, Miriam, not him," he snarled as he snatched back the menu. "He's barred for life." I had to grab a burger outside the ground. Real beef, though.

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'It was a fair cop,' says Cronje as match referee fines him £550

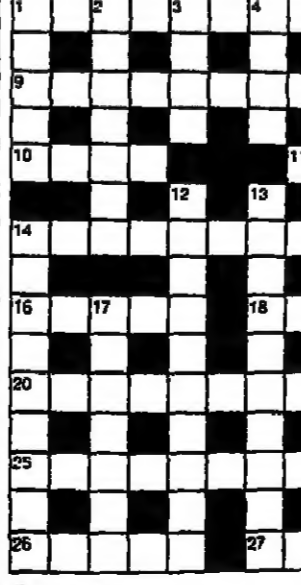
HANSIE CRONJE last night accepted that the match referee Clive Lloyd was right to fine him 3,000 rand (£550) for remonstrating with the umpire Dave Orchard over the Graham Thorpe run-out. "I deserved to be fined, and accept the fact that I was wrong," said South Africa's captain. Lloyd said afterwards that Orchard had not been influenced by Cronje's impassioned plea for a replay or by some 20,000 home fans screaming for Thorpe to be given out. But Thorpe said: "Once a decision is made you should not be allowed to go back on it. It looked like they were going to bowl the next ball but the roar of the crowd changed the umpire's mind. Orchard asked me if I minded if he called for a replay, and I said, 'No: you have made your decision'. He said, 'Okay, let's play on' - but then Cronje came over and had a go about using the technology. The rest is history."



TV or not TV... Cronje, Thorpe and McMillan discuss

Guardian Crossword No 20,541

Set by Orlando



Across 1 Horse has endless opportunity to go around coach (9) 6 Become less obstructed above (3,2) 9 Informed when given a movie role (3,2,3,7) 10 Hasty eruption (4) 11 Moralise, finding the ice is broken (8) 14 Anaesthetic confined to backward prisms (9) 15 Proficient in arithmetic, beginning with short division (5) 16 Cake decoration is a winter phenomenon (5) 18 Infitable about one day's evidence (9) 20 Ring our number when copper goes in for some mathematics (8) 21 Spring term's conclusion - luncheon-meat (4) 25 Writer's employed to create fictional detective (4,5,6) 26 Snake with a dark head and crimson back (5) 27 Tell what one remembers about crimes in east? (8) Down 1 Put the queen in the team for a prank? (5) 2 Sinatra cast as a skilled workman (7) 3 A river? On the contrary, it's a river (4) 4 Pain reaches inner part (4) 5 Turn to account (10 TO ACCOUNT) (10) 6 Police left by Poe to play in a police department and find milk product (6,4) 7 Bullish Greek character concerned with holding in (7)

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